



NEWS

R E L E A S E

RALPH T. HUDGENS
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.oci.ga.gov

For Immediate Release
November 5, 2013

Contact: Glenn Allen
404-463-0729
gallen@oci.ga.gov
Twitter: @GA_DOI

HUDGENS PAULDING COUNTY FIRE RULED ACCIDENTAL

Atlanta – Fire Investigators with Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens' office have ruled an early morning fatal house fire in Paulding County accidental.

Killed in the fire was Thomas L. Merritt, 59. The manufactured home located at 145 Helms Drive, was destroyed. Hudgens said the fire call came in around 1:30 a.m.

The investigation revealed that the fire originated in the kitchen and dining room area of the home and was caused by an electrical malfunction. No evidence of a working smoke alarm was found.

This fatality brings Georgia's fire death total to 103 for 2013.